

Appl. No. 10/732,840  
Amdt. Dated May 18, 2005  
Reply to Final Office Action of February 18, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for generating an x-ray beam, said method comprising the steps of:
  - operating a cathode to generate an electron beam;
  - directing the electron beam from the cathode through a selectable shaped aperture in an accelerating electrode; and
  - impinging the electron beam at a ~~low~~ an acute angle on an anode surface to form a focal spot on the anode surface.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~low-acute~~ angle is at most about twenty degrees.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising forming the focal spot on an outer periphery of the anode surface.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising housing the accelerating electrode being positioned in a central recess of the anode.
5. (currently amended) An x-ray source comprising:
  - a cathode for generating an electron beam;
  - an accelerating electrode comprising a selectable shaped aperture through which the electron beam from said cathode passes; and
  - an anode positioned so that the electron beam impinges thereon at a ~~low~~ an acute angle.
6. (currently amended) The x-ray source of claim 5, wherein the ~~low~~ acute angle is at most about twenty degrees.

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7. (original) The x-ray source of claim 5, wherein the anode comprises a disk shape, the disk shape being defined by an outer periphery, an inner periphery and a central recess, and wherein the central recess houses the accelerating electrode.

8. (currently amended) An imaging system comprising a gantry, a detector and an x-ray source coupled to said gantry, said x-ray source configured for radiating an x-ray beam along an imaging plane toward said detector, said x-ray source comprising a cathode for generating an electron beam, an accelerating electrode comprising a selectable shaped aperture through which the electron beam from said cathode passes, and an anode positioned so that the electron beam impinges thereon at a low acute angle.

9. (currently amended) The imaging system of claim 8, wherein the low acute angle is at most about twenty degrees.

10. (original) The imaging system of claim 8, wherein the anode comprises a disk shape, the disk shape being defined by an outer periphery, an inner periphery and a central recess, and wherein the central recess houses the accelerating electrode.

11. (currently amended) An x-ray source comprising:

means for generating an electron beam,

means for accelerating electrons in said electron beam away from said generating means, and

means for generating x-ray beams when said electron beam impinge thereon at a low an acute angle.

12. (currently amended) The x-ray source of claim 11, wherein the low acute angle is at most about twenty degrees.